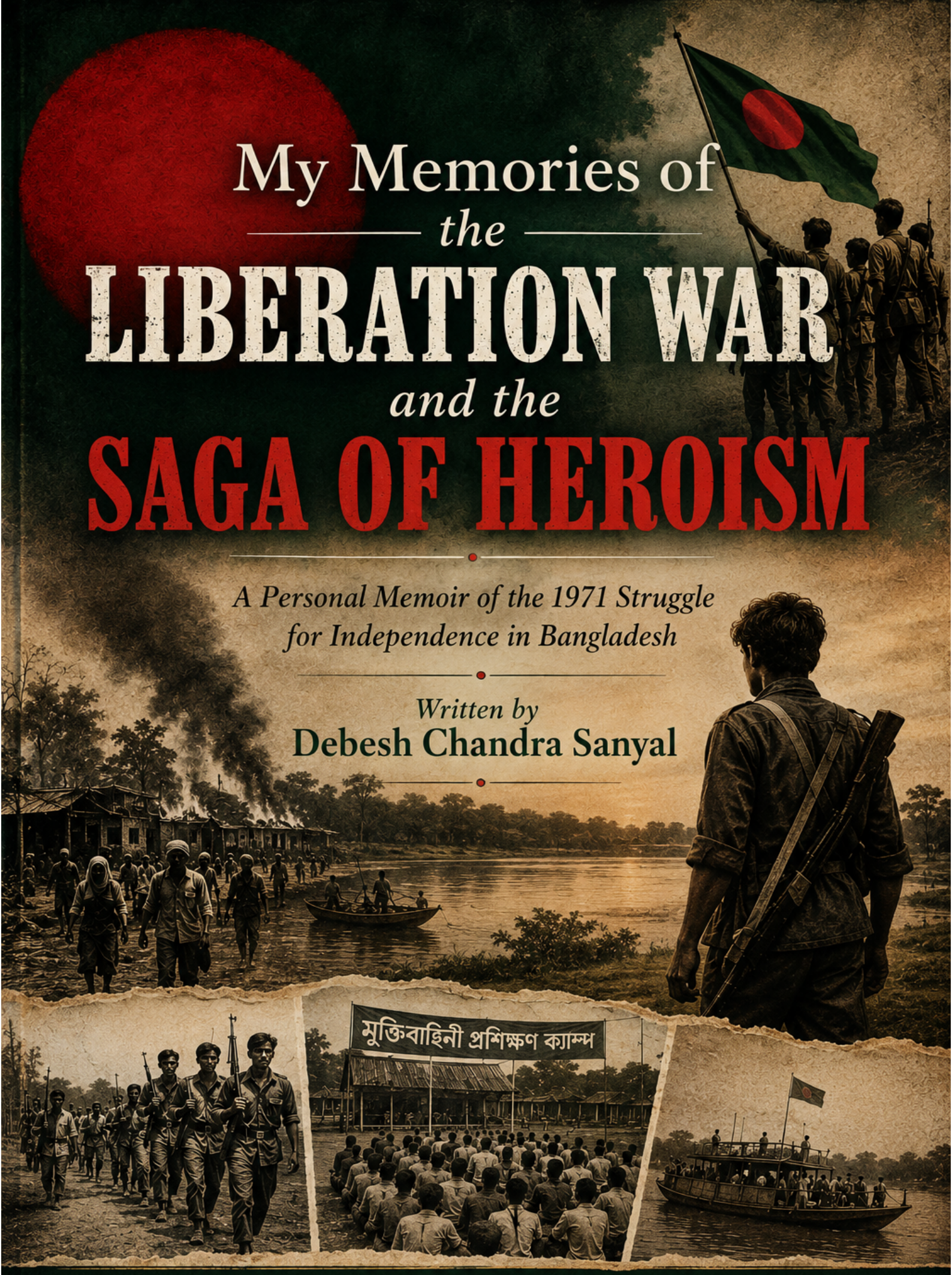
My Memories of *the* LIBERATION WAR *and the* SAGA OF HEROISM

A Personal Memoir of the 1971 Struggle for Independence in Bangladesh

Written by
Debesh Chandra Sanyal



"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
– George Santayana

My memories of the Liberation War and the saga of heroism.

-Devesh Chandra Sanyal

Nineteen seventy-one. On March 25, '71, after 11:30 pm, with the approval of Pakistan's military president Yahya Khan, "Operation Searchlight" began under the leadership of East Pakistan Army Chief and East Pakistan Governor Lt. J. Tikka Khan. All avenues of compromise were closed through discussions with the undisputed leader of the Bengalis at that time, Awami League President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others. Due to the sudden attack of the Pakistani invaders, Bengali soldiers, EPR, police and others started armed resistance war from their respective positions. The great liberation war started on March 26, '71. I was a student of the eighth grade of Ratan Kandi Lower Secondary School at that time. The atrocities of the Pakistani soldiers started on the night of March 25, '71. The Pakistani invaders named this heinous atrocities in the world "Operation Searchlight". They carried out arson, burning, torture, murder and other inhuman acts without trial on the sleeping Bengalis. After 25 March 1971, the Pakistani invading troops gradually set up camps in most parts of the country. Most of the leaders and workers of Jamaat-e-Islam, Muslim League and other Islamic political parties who lost the 1970 National Assembly and Provincial Assembly elections took the side of Pakistan. The Peach Committee, Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and other forces were formed to cooperate with the Pakistani invading troops. Most of the Bihari residents of this country took the side of the Pakistani troops. The West Pakistani troops had recruited some Bihari youths as militias after giving them brief training, saying that they would have to stop the movement by disciplining the Hindu, Awami League and independence-seeking leaders and workers of East Pakistan. The Pakistani troops used to arrest and arrest them all over the country. Pakistani soldiers, with the help of their local allies, continued to commit various inhuman acts including arson, burning, killing, mass murder, torture, rape, forced conversion and extortion throughout the country. After 7 March 1971, Pakistani Bihari soldiers continued to disarm the Bengali soldiers serving with them. Some Bengali soldiers fled with weapons or empty-handed. The invaders had killed some of their fellow Bengali soldiers. The people of Peach Km, the Razakars and the anti-independence forces would show the Pakistani soldiers the houses of Awami League leaders and activists and Hindus. The Razakars would show the Pakistani soldiers the roads and go to the villages. They would show which houses had gone to the liberation war. They would give information to the Pakistani invaders, looted houses, set fire to them and set fire to them. Seeing their cruelty, the nation was shocked. I knew about the atrocities of the Pakistani soldiers every day from various eyewitnesses. At that time, schools and colleges were closed due to fear of the Pakistanis. Most of the employees of our area who were working in Dhaka and other cities took shelter in houses to save their lives. From them and others, I came to know about the brutal horror of the Pakistani army. On April 24, 1971, the Pakistani soldiers came to the south bank of the Baghabari Ghat in our area. At that time, there was no bridge on the Huda Sagar River at the Baghabari Ghat. There was a government ferry. Buses, trucks and other vehicles used to cross the ferry. There was a Khey Ghat on this Huda Sagar River. At that time, Khey Ghat was called every year. Common people used to cross the Khey Ghat in the boats. As soon as the Pakistani soldiers reached the south bank of the Baghabari Ghat, they fired two powerful shells. The loud sound of the two shells created panic in the area. One of the two shells fell in a village called Dia. Another shell fell in another village. Sirajganj Subdistrict Administrator/SDO Mr. A.K. Shamsuddin Ahmed

Under the leadership of Sir, Bengali soldiers, EPR, police, Ansar and others were stationed on the north bank of Baghabari Ghat to resist the Pakistani soldiers. Considering that it would not be possible to win by fighting against the Pakistani soldiers, they withdrew and went to various places to participate in the liberation war. On 25 April 1971, Pakistani soldiers committed mass murder in a village called Chariya under Ullapara police station in our district. The identities of 129 victims of this mass murder have been found. On 08 May 1971, Karanja under Santhia police station and 14 May 1971, Demra under Faridpur police station and Ruposhi and Bausgari under Santhia police station were massacred. In Karanja, Pakistani soldiers, with the help of anti-independence activists, brutally killed 8 people including 3 members of the Mega Thakur family. In the Demra, Ruposhi and Bausgari massacres, our grandfather Prabodh Kumar Majumdar (Mona Majumdar) and Lalu Chakraborty killed more than seven hundred Hindu Muslim men and women. The Kan Sona Ghosh Para under Ullapara police station was massacred. The country's situation is terrible. Pakistani soldiers surrounded one village after another at night and carried out mass killings from dawn. They looted and looted with the help of local anti-independence collaborators. They set houses and shops on fire and burned them. After the Operation Search Light on March 25 last night, many Awami League leaders and activists and Hindus took refuge in India to save their lives. Bengali soldiers, EPR police, Ansar and others waged a war of resistance. Most of the farmers, workers, students and other men and women of this country joined the liberation war with Bengali soldiers, EPR, Ansar and other trained forces. It was not possible for the Bengalis to fight against the professionally trained Pakistani soldiers equipped with modern weapons. The Bengali soldiers and others took refuge in India for training, weapons and other assistance. We have to cross the Karatoya River to our village. Pakistani soldiers will not be able to come to our village without a waterway. The Muslims of our village are very good. The great man of our village, Dr. Md. Zainul Abedin Sarkar (JTU Doctor), Vice Principal Md. Nurul Haque Sarkar, Chemist Md. Nazrul Islam Sarkar, Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Md. Abdul Sarkar, Maulvi Mohammad Hossain, Md. Shah Alam Master, Md. Abdul Majid Sarkar, Md. Abul Kalam, Md. Akbar Ali Mollah, Md. Yunus Master, Md. Akbar Ali Pramanik, leading Muslims of the village, Muslim youth and possible others called and said - "You all know about the terrible situation in the whole country. Wherever you go in the whole country, everyone will see that no harm comes to the Hindus of our village. Hindus are our trust.... We will be fully vigilant to protect the Hindus of our village." Not a single person in our village was a member of the Peach Committee, Razakar or an opponent of independence. All Muslims provided various security to Hindus. Hindus and Muslims have been living together in this village since ancient times. When various adversities arise, Muslims provide security to Hindus in various ways. Our village is a unique village of communal harmony in the world. During the Liberation War, most of the Hindus of the village had left their gold ornaments and other valuables in the houses of their Muslim neighbors, fearing the Pakistani soldiers. After the Victory Day of Bangladesh, the Muslim neighbors had returned all the gold ornaments and other valuables entrusted to them intact. After the Demra massacre, we started guarding the village day and night. The Muslim youths of the neighbors stayed with us for our cooperation. On the instructions of the elders, all Md. Abdul Majid Sarkar, Abul Kalam Sarkar, Golam Mahbub Nannu, Md. Abdus Chattar Pramanik, Md. Anaimolla, Md. Iman Ali, Md. Nazrul Islam, Md. Lal Mia. Md. Shamsul Haque and others stayed with us day and night in turns and guarded the village. Our family used to take shelter in the houses of our Muslim neighbors for a few days and nights. The Muslims of our village were so kind that they would leave their houses and beds for us and sleep on the veranda themselves. We left our village home for a few days and took shelter in the house of Makhanlal Singh, a disciple of our father, in Bachra village, which is located in a more remote area than our village. Alone in the Liberation War

I decided to participate. How many more days can I stay in people's homes? In the beginning of the month of Ashadh, I will go to the village again.

I returned home. We and other youths of our village took turns guarding the village day and night on our own initiative. And we kept looking for the way to the Liberation War. The first part of the month of Shrawan. The day was 6 Shrawan 1378 and 23 July 71 Friday. The rainy season. At around 8 pm, I saw a six-masted boat in the Paleder Beel near our house. Seeing the boat, I went ahead. I saw my acquaintance Md. Abdul Wahab from Bachra village. I asked. What will happen? Wahab said MPA. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Sir is taking the willing people of the area to India for training in the Liberation War. I said then I will also go. I went home. I secretly packed my clothes and then tore a page from my notebook and wrote a note addressed to my mother. The note was- "Mother, take my bow, give my bow to father. Give my bow to elder brother, elder sister and aunt. Give my love to younger brother and sister. I went to the Liberation War. When I asked you to go, you refused to let me go, so I left. Forgive my sins. Bless me. May I return to you victorious. This is your son Devesh." The day was the market day of our village. Father Devesh had brought good fish from the market, Mother Devi was cooking. After a while, she would call us all to eat. I secretly went to the boat without telling anyone in the house. At around 8:30 pm, MPA Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Sir came in a boat with a few people including Razzak and Ershad brothers of Shahjadpur. Seeing MPA Sir, I went forward to meet him. Standing in front, I greeted him. Seeing me, Sir said- Devesh, why are you? You won't take such a young person to the Liberation War. I requested. MPA sir said - okay, let's go. Then Ratan Kandi left our boat from Paleder Beel Ghat at around 9:00 pm. I mentally bowed to God. The life of a teenager began to go to war. After winning the great liberation war, I came home and found out. Because of me, my elder brother and younger brother were about to die in a boat sinking. Half an hour after I left for India, Matri Devi had called me for dinner. After not finding me, she had searched and found out that a boat of people from Paleder Beel Ghat had left for India for training in the liberation war. Matri Devi was sure after finding a note written to Matri Devi on the bed. Matri Devi started crying for me. Then my elder brother and younger brother, Bajlu Pal and Jalal Kaka of the village along with a few people had taken a boat to MPA Sahib's house in Shahjadpur to bring me back. They did not find me there. On their way back, the boat sank in the Karatoya River in Shahjadpur. Since my brother was small, everyone went to save him. Then my younger brother Shamen said - "I know how to swim, my elder brother does not know how to swim. Save my elder brother." Everyone swam over the boat and saved my elder brother and younger brother. We reached Satbaria of Sujanagar police station through different areas of Bera and Sathia police stations. After watching all night, we went to Satbaria in the morning. We took shelter in a house assigned by our guide in a remote village of Sujanagar police station and took a bath and ate. Then at around 9 pm, we crossed the border of Bangladesh through Satbaria, crossed the Padma river, and crossed the Kharijathak village of Chilmari union of Daulatpur police station in Kushtia district. We entered India through the Jalangi border of West Bengal, India. We entered a BSF camp. We performed our duties and washed our hands and faces. At the BSF camp, MPA Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Sir and our guide were allowed to sit on chairs. They made us all stand in a line. We were counted. We were 22 people. MPA sir contacted us and arranged for us to be admitted to the Kamar Para Youth Camp in Sector No. 7.

M.P.A. Sir went with us to Malda. He bought muri and kathal from Malda market and fed us. Then, after making arrangements for us to reach Kamar Para Youth Camp for training in the Liberation War, he left for Kolkata for the temporary Bangladesh government in exile.

We reached Kamar Para Youth Camp around 9 pm. They arranged for our accommodation and food. The next morning, they made us all follow up. The training authorities did not admit me due to my young age. Helpless, I left for the house of Mr. Viswanath Bhattacharya behind my old Maldaha. At that time, most Indians called Bangladeshis "Joy Bangla people". Bangladeshis did not have to pay any fare on Indian trains and buses. If they asked for fare on buses and trains, they would understand that we were refugees from Bangladesh if we said "Joy Bangla". I took a bus from Kamarpara Youth Camp to a nearby railway station. After that, I took a train. I had to change trains at Barsoi Railway Junction Station. I was sitting at the station. I did not have a train ticket. The mobile court people caught me. They put me in a room. The magistrate called those who did not have train tickets one by one and fined them. My turn came in turn. When they asked me my name, I said "Joy Bangla". They understood that I had left Bangladesh. They let me go without fining me. I took the next train and got down at Old Malda station and went to the house of Mr. Bishwa Nath Bhattacharya. I spent a few days in Old Malda, Ghazal, Siliguri, Balur Ghat and Jalpaiguri. I went home. Behind me, a brother-in-law of a gentleman was in charge of a refugee camp. He advised me-"You are a young man, you don't need to go to the liberation war. I am admitting you to the refugee camp." You will get accommodation, ration and all other facilities in the refugee camp." I could not agree to come to India from Bangladesh to participate in the Liberation War and eat sitting in the refugee camp. I returned to Kamarpara Youth Camp. I met some people including Rabindra Nath Bagchi, Md. Nazrul Islam and Ratan Kumar Das of Shahjadpur. They advised me to go to Professor Abu Sayyid Sir, in-charge of Malancha (Kurmail) Camp, advisor of Sector No. 7 and M.N. of Bera-Santhia constituency. On their advice, I went to Professor Abu Sayyid Sir. I introduced myself and requested him to arrange for me to be admitted to the Liberation War. He arranged for me to be admitted to Kamarpara Youth Camp. I also made a special request to the Kamarpara Youth Camp admission authority to admit me. The authority questioned me on various matters. They admitted me after hearing about my patriotism, bravery and other things. In the initial training camp, we The national anthem was sung and a PT parade was held. After staying at Kamarpara Youth Camp for a few days, I, Rabindra Nath Bagchi, Ratan Kumar Das and Md. Nazrul Islam were transferred to Malancha (Kurmail) Transit Camp, from Malancha (Kurmail) Transit Camp we were brought to Patiram Primary Training Camp. From Patiram Primary Training Camp, 20/22 people were brought in an Indian Army lorry to the Indian Army Training Camp called Panighata in Siliguri Subdistrict of Darjeeling District. We were taken to the camp and made to sit in a tent. Each of us was given a mug, a plate, two pants, two shirts, a mosquito net, and a bed sheet. The training started. On the first day of the training, the training co-

The coordinator first followed up and explained the various rules and regulations of the training and other matters. Then he

He said that the training chief, Captain D.S. Villon Sir, would arrive at 12:00 noon. Exactly at 12:00 noon. The Chief of Training, Sikh Army Captain D.S. Villon Sir, arrived. He addressed all of us. What he said in Hindi means-"... I salute you. You are heroes, you are your country." You have come to fight for your life to free your mother from the invaders. We will do the same for you. We will not. We will provide humanitarian aid, training and weapons. We will make your country independent. We have to do it. I salute your parents who gave birth to you. They sacrificed their children for the country. Who sent them to the Liberation War...". The Panighata Training Camp was a higher training camp under Sector No. 7. Camp. The Panighata site was a forest area surrounded by mountains. In this forest area, there were apes, Naxals and other bad people lived there. The place was a hill descending from the Karshiyan hills. The forest area on the south side of the canal. Our training site was on the east-west side of the canal. Located on the southern side. On the left side of the Chan Mari place, a continuous stream of water is coming down from the mountain. My This was the first time in my life that I saw water coming from a mountain. Mortar was poured on the southern bank of the canal. There was training. The mortar shells would fall in the forest on the north side of the canal. Our 21-day training We have three not three rifles, L, M, G, S, L, R, Stengun, Twinch mortar, hand They were given training in grenade charging, use of explosives, first aid and other things. If a fellow soldier is injured in battle, Or gave ideas about what to do if you are martyred and about first aid. A few Indian Hindu Biharis And the Sikh soldiers trained our company. Our company was called Delta Company. The chief instructor was Sikh Army Captain D.S. Villon. One night at the Pani Ghata Higher Training Camp I am lying in my tent, crying uncontrollably for my parents and the rest of my family. In my tears, I am crying in my tent. The others who were staying woke up. The fellow in the tent, Rabindra Nath Bagchi, the training coordinator, They called me. Our company's training coordinator came and told me not to cry. He said. What he said in Hindi means-Tum Kanu Sanyal Hai, Tum Sanshptak Hai, Tum Nahi Crying... Before the farewell of the freedom fighters, they wrote the number F.F. on the slate with chalk and pinned it to their chests. It was supposed to be taken. But it rained for a few days before our company's trainees left. The weather Due to some reasons, he could not take our picture. While saying goodbye, I found out that my FF number was- 4742. After the training, I, Rabindra Nath Bagchi, Md. Nazrul Islam and Ratan were taken to the Indian Army truck. Kumar Das and about 50 others were brought to the headquarters of Sector 7, Tarangpur. This It was located at a place called Tarangpur in Kaliaganj police station of West Bengal. Tarangpur was brought to Sirajganj district. A guerrilla group was formed with a few people. Belcuchi was appointed as the group leader of our group. Mr. M.A. Mannan of Tamai village of the police station. Jamirta of Shahjadpur police station has been appointed as the deputy leader. Village resident Rabindra Nath Bagchi. We have weapons, ammunition, rations and pocket money from Tarangpur. Money was given. I have a three-knot three rifle, one magazine and one belt of bullets, one Bayonets and a helmet were issued. Other ammunition, mines, grenades and explosives commander Sir, I was given the responsibility. There was no guarantee that I wouldn't die. So I prepared for death and fought. A Sri Sri Chandi book from Tarangpur Bazar, a map of Bangladesh engraved for victory I bought the national flag of Bangladesh and a 4-band radio. I took the bus from Tarangpur to Kaliaganj. We boarded the train. We had to change trains at Siliguri Railway Junction Station. Siliguri

I was sitting on the platform of the station with everyone in the group. I saw an empty train standing in front of our platform. I entered a toilet in the train to urinate. While I was using the toilet, the train started. I got scared. I hurriedly came out of the toilet and jumped down onto the platform. My knee hurt. I think about it today - I didn't have any ID card in my pocket at that time. It was an unfamiliar place. Not a single person there knew me. If I died, even my companions would not have found me. There was no certainty whether my body would be buried or cremated. My parents had been looking for me all their lives. They would not have found my body either. Later, I changed trains and boarded a train bound for Assam. We got down at a station called Dhupari on the Assam-bound train. Then I came to Manikar Char by bus. Since it was getting dark, Commander Sir hired a boarding house for Manikar Char at night. Who arranged for us to stay at that boarding house? The next morning, we crossed the river from Manikar Char and came to the Roumari Freedom Fighter Training Camp established in the then Kurigram Subdistrict (now the district) of Rangpur District. We bathed, ate and feasted at the Roumari Camp. Our commander Sir hired a big six-wheeled boat to reach the upper reaches of the Jamuna in the liberated area of Sirajganj District. After having dinner from the Roumari Camp, our boat left at around 9:00 PM. It was 6 September 1971. The boat had to come through Bahadurabad Ghat, Jagannathganj Ghat, Kazipur Thana and other risky areas. We had come to know that Bahadurabad Ghat is a very risky area. The Pakistani soldiers and Razakars of that camp are terrible. They use speed boats to patrol the river at night. When they find the freedom fighters in the boat, they capture them. They take them to the camp and brutally torture them. Our commander Mr. M.A. Mannan Sir ordered - "All of you stay in position in the boat's deck. If the Pakistani invaders come to catch us, we will not be caught. We will fight. We will be martyred in the fight but we will not be caught by them". At around 2.00 pm, we started crossing the Bahadurabad Ghat area. The light of their searchlights was coming and falling on our boat again and again. By the grace of God, they did not come to catch us with speed boats. We crossed the Bahadurabad Ghat area. We had jaggery and jaggery with us. In the morning, the boatmen put the boat into a Kaisa field. We went down and urinated in the field. We had breakfast with the jaggery and jaggery that we had with us. After that, the boat left again. At that time, most of the areas of Kazipur Police Station, including most of the areas of Bangladesh, were under the control of the Pakistani invaders. Our boat would come in front of Kazipur Police Station. After searching and stopping for 4 days, the boat arrived at the Jamuna Char in the Sirajganj liberated area. It was near the Singhuri Char in Tangail district. There was a cooking facility in the boat. The boatmen would cook dal bhaat or khichuri and feed us. We continued on this way without eating. The next night, we crossed the Jamuna river. We went to the village house of Mr. Md. Abdul Momin Talukdar, MNA of Belkuchi-Kamarkhand constituency. He was not at home at that time. His brother Md. Rashid Talukdar helped us with food and other matters. Until October 1971, the commander sir did not take the decision to fight head-on because the number of freedom fighters in our group was small. I came to know from the commander sir that Mr. Md. Amir Hossain Bhulu's group and several other groups of freedom fighters were in our area. We used to carry out guerrilla operations called "hit and run" to keep the Pakistani invading soldiers and their allies in fear. The Pakistani soldiers or

We would go near the Razakar camp and shoot blanks in the air with three-knot three rifles at 2:40. Pakistani brokers, Peach Committee members and others would be afraid and panicked when they learned of our presence. We would hide in schools or in someone's house during the day. During the Liberation War, there were two sides within the country. One was for independence. The other was against independence. Most of the people in our working area were for independence. The members of the Peach Committee, Razakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and others were against independence. The opponents of independence would bring Pakistani soldiers to the houses with information about those who participated in the Liberation War and set fire to them, looted and extorted money. They would capture the owners of the houses that sheltered the freedom fighters and torture and kill them. Hindus and Awami League leaders were their main targets. They would capture Hindu men and women. They would torture, rape and kill them. In different places, freedom fighters also killed especially oppressive Pakistani agents and Razakars. If any Pakistani invading soldier directly involved in genocide, rape and other acts against humanity could be caught, there was a plan to try him in a firing squad. That is why in most freedom fighter groups, a brave person was nominated as the executioner. The executioner of our group was Md. Shamsul Haque, a freedom fighter from Daulatpur village. We could not catch any such Pakistani invading soldier. We never killed anyone. The policy of our group was - "We will not kill any of our countrymen. We will convince them to support independence" that is why our freedom fighter group did not catch, give peace or kill any anti-independence person. We tried to convince the anti-independence person in various ways through ourselves or through their relatives. Despite having firearms in our hands, we were in fear at every moment. Pakistani soldiers could attack us at any time. There was no guarantee of the food we had. We did not have any dishes with which we could cook and eat ourselves. We would stay in this shelter today and that shelter tomorrow. We would not stay in any shelter for more than one day. Because we were afraid that someone against independence might inform us about a nearby Pakistani army camp or Razakar camp and bring Pakistani soldiers or Razakars from there and hand us over. Some days, due to the lack of shelter, we had to sleep on school benches all night, eating jaggery. We did not have any mosquito nets, pillows, blankets and other things. What an inhuman hardship. We would guard our shelters in turns, two by two. Every night, the commander sir would give us a side ward. When we were on shelter duty, if someone came, we would say "halt" and make them stand. Then we would say "hands up". After that, we would let them go without asking questions and make sure. At night, we would go to the houses of various Razakars and explain to their relatives. In the morning, we would fire our weapons, clean them, and oil them. At that time, most of the people in the country were in favor of independence. We would eat and drink at different people's houses every day. Many people did not dare to give us shelter or food due to the fear of the opponents of independence. Because in most villages, there were 2/1 Pakistani brokers and Razakars. If they found out, they would inform the neighboring army or Razakar camp and bring them there, burn the houses, capture the owners of the houses, kill them, and persecute them. We always had a little bit of firewood with us. We took some local Awami League leaders and workers with us for training. My father and mother were almost crazy because I was going to the Liberation War. An ignorant

A teenage boy trained, professional, and armed with modern weapons, fought against the fierce Pakistani soldiers! In order to find me, bring me back from the war, and to save me from the massacre at the hands of the Razakars' ultimatum, the entire family took refuge in the Manikar Chaar refugee camp in Assam, India, at great risk, leaving their homes and other villages in the custody of Md. Hossain Ali. Before any attack, we would do Reiki. "Jai Bangla" was our main slogan on the battlefield. I had told my group commander and comrades on the battlefield - "If I die on the battlefield, wrap my body in the national flag I bought from Tarangpur Bazar and throw it into the river". When I died on the battlefield of the Liberation War, there was no family member in Bangladesh to perform the last rites/funeral rites with my body. If I died on the battlefield, there was no way to take my body to the village with me. I participated in frontal/guerrilla warfare under two group commanders. One- Group Commander Mr. M.A. Mannan and two Deputy Group Commanders (appointed as Group Commanders) under the command of Babu Rabindra Nath Bagchi. Under Group Commander M.A. Mannan Sir, Belkuchi Thana Operation, Ambush near Kalia Haripur Railway Station and Kalyanpur Battle of Belkuchi Thana (now Upazila). Dhitpur Battle under the command of Babu Rabindra Nath Bagchi. Details of the guerrilla/front battles of our group are as follows:-

1. Belkuchi Police Station Operation:

Belkuchi is a notable police station in Sirajganj district. The operation of this police station was led by Group Commander Mr. M.A. Mannan Sir. In the first week of October '71, we simultaneously attacked Belkuchi police station and the house of Muslim League leader Md. Abdul Matin under the command of Commander Sir and 3 other people. In the evening, Commander Sir gave a detailed briefing at the Bania Gati shelter. Commander Sir had divided our group into two groups. It was decided that the larger group led by Commander Sir would attack the police station. The other group led by Rabindra Nath Bagmi would attack the house of Muslim League leader Md. Abdul Matin Saheb and capture Matin Saheb. I was participating in the police station operation war from Commander Sir's group. I had left from Bania Gati shelter at 9 pm. When we reached the police station, the two groups were divided for the target. At 12 midnight, it was decided to attack simultaneously. As per the plan, our group and Amir Hossain Bhulu's group and other groups scrolled through the western side of the police station and saw the sentry as soon as they reached the police station. The sentry started shooting at us by blowing a whistle and informing everyone in the police station. After that, our group commander Mr. M.A. Mannan sir gave the command and opened fire. After receiving the commander sir's command, we all started shooting simultaneously. Our group was supported by Mr. Md. Amir Hossain Bhulu's group and several other groups who had taken shelter in the area. The battle lasted for about an hour. The battle was a fierce battle. I had a helmet on my head. Two bullets hit my helmet. The battle commander was positioned on my right side. There was no other way except victory or death. We were all firing like rain. At one stage of the battle, the commander sir said to me - "Devesh, don't raise your head, keep firing". Defeated by our fire, the police and Razakars of the police station fled behind the police station and went to a launch in the Sohagpur River, out of our range, to the middle of the Jamuna River. The sentry of the police station stopped firing and surrendered. Then we all entered the police station. We had taken all the weapons and ammunition from the police station warehouse. We had captured two Razakars in this battle. It was dawn. The group that attacked Matin Saheb's house also came. Matin Saheb had fled. It was not possible to catch him. During the Liberation War, most of the houses and shops had the national flag of Bangladesh. Seeing our victory, we were spontaneously happy.

The people around the police station were flying the national flag of Bangladesh in shops and houses. We were celebrating for some time after winning and returning to the shelter. The two Razakars who were caught were first blindfolded and kept in the room next to our shelter room. With the permission of my commander sir, I personally asked the two Razakars about the background of becoming Razakars and other questions. The two Razakars were ordinary people. It was known from them that they had not tortured anyone. They had joined the Razakars thinking it was a job. Seeing the two Razakars, I thought they were simple and good people. I untied their blindfolds. Arrangements were made for their food and drink at our equal pace. At night, when changing shelters, I told the commander sir - Sir, the two Razakars are good people, they have not harmed anyone. They have wives and children at home. They are poor people. "Please release them." Our commander sir was a very good man. He loved me very much as a small person. Agreeing to my words, he allowed us to release the two Razakars. At night, during the change of shelter, I and Md. Shamsul Haque of Daulatpur had released the two Razakars and had taken them some distance ahead. The next day, more than a hundred Pakistani invading soldiers came from Sirajganj and set fire to the area around Belkuchi police station and tortured the people. For that night, commander sir had given us Shapla and Golap as ward.

2. Ambush near Kalia Haripur Railway Station:

We ambushed near Kalia Haripur Railway Station, midway between Kalia Haripur Station and Jamtail Station. Kalia Haripur is a railway station of Sadar Police Station in Sirajganj District. In the first week of November 1971. This ambush was led by Group Commander Mr. M.A. Mannan. That night, around 11 pm, based on the reconnaissance and information of Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid Talukdar of Jhaoil village of our group, we ambushed between Kalia Haripur Railway Station and Jamtail Station. Commander Sir had crawled and planted an electric mine on the railway line. Group Commander Sir was planning to blow up the train. We were all in position in the paddy field. Commander Sir had the mine wire and battery in his hand. Paki militia Shia and Razakars were patrolling with torch lights and hurricanes. Suddenly, our mine wire was cut off when we got on their feet. The mine had caught the attention of the Pakistani invaders. The Pakistani invaders whistled and ordered the Razakars to be ready in the lying position. They kept shouting at us in Urdu by shining torchlights. At that time, a train carrying Pakistani soldiers from Ishwardi to Sirajganj arrived. The Pakistani militia and others at Kalia Haripur station stopped the train at the station by giving a signal. The Pakistani invaders got off the train with their weapons drawn and started looking for me. It was not possible to blast our mine. Considering the large number of Pakistani invaders and other factors, the Commander Sir gave the order to withdraw. We crawled back some distance and walked to Tamai village around 12:00 am. The next day, the Pakistani invaders and Razakars came from Sirajganj and burned down several houses in various villages around Kalia Haripur and tortured some villagers. We returned from the ambush and gathered at Commander Sir's house in Tamai village. Commander Sir's mother had arranged food for us. We had a meal at Commander Sir's house. After the meal, Commander Sir made us all sit down and gave a briefing. Several young men who had been trained locally were admitted to our group. It was difficult to take shelter in such a large platoon in one shelter. So Commander Sir decided to form another group of a few of us by making Deputy Commander Rabindranath Bagchi the commander. He gave various instructions to work in coordination with each other. Then we left for a shelter in a nearby village under Belkuchi police station. That night, Commander Sir gave us Shapla and Jawa as our side wards.

3. Battle of Kalyanpur:

Kalyanpur is a village under Belkuchi police station in Sirajganj district. Group Commander Mr. M.A. Mannan led this battle. We walked all night from Tamai village and took shelter in a few houses in a village called Kalyanpur under Belkuchi police station. In the second week of November 1971, the village leaders arranged for us to have breakfast. We were tired from walking all night without sleep. After eating breakfast, we publicly protested and paraded. We cleaned our weapons. We fired our weapons. We continued to do duty in pairs. The others stayed asleep or rested. Kalyanpur is a secluded village. We thought that the Pakistani invaders and Razakars would not come to this village. At around 10 o'clock, our fellow soldier Ratan Kumar Das, who was on sentry duty, came running and informed us that some Pakistani invaders were coming from Belkuchi police station along with Shias and Razakars to catch us. We were going to Kalyanpur through the village of Baora. Two Pakistani agents had covered their faces with a towel to hide their identities and had identified the path of the invaders and Razakars. From a distance, it was estimated that there were 5 militias and 8 Razakars in this group. Our commander decided to fight. We took a position in a bamboo thicket like a bunker on the southern side of Kalyanpur Road. Pakistani militias and Razakars were coming along the road in front of the bamboo thicket. As soon as we came within our range, the commander sir gave the command and opened fire. In one leap, the invaders took a position on the northern side of the road. They were also firing at us. We also started firing like a rain of bullets at the same time. Hearing the sound of the gunfire, the freedom fighter group standing nearby came forward to help us. The frontal battle continued for more than an hour. Then the Pakistani invaders retreated. Having won the battle, we were celebrating victory. The confidence of people from all walks of life was strengthened. We had food and drinks in a few houses. Then, on the orders of Commander Sir, we walked through Pirarchar, Khasiar Char and a few other villages under the command of Rabindra Nath Bagchi and came to the house of our fellow soldier Md. Shamsul Haque in Daulatpur village and took shelter. My elder brother Samarendra Nath Sanyal joined us in this shelter on 14 November 1971. We stayed in shelter for a few days in Daulatpur, Tenashia, Khukni, Bajiarpara, Dargar Char and other villages. Every night, the commander would give the password. Every morning, weapons would be filled with flowers and oiled. Every day, we would do reconnaissance in groups to attack Pakistani army camps and Razakar camps.

4. Battle of Dhitpur:

"On December 13, 1971, a battle was fought between our freedom fighters against the Pakistani invading troops and Razakars at Wapda Dam at a place called Dhitpur under Sonatani Union of Shahjadpur Thana (now Upazila) of Sirajganj district. At that time, the victory of our great liberation war was on the verge. We were always thinking that Bangladesh would be independent before the next sunrise. On November 21, a joint force was formed by the Mukti Bahini and the Indian forces. From December 4, the Mukti Bahini and the Indian allied forces were fighting jointly against the Pakistani forces in various battlefields. On December 6, first Bhutan and later India recognized our Bangladesh. The opponents of independence from all over the country have started fleeing to the country and abroad. The Razakars are leaving various camps and surrendering to the freedom fighters with or without weapons. Those who had looted the goods of the Hindus are returning the loot to the Hindus and reconciling. People who are in favor of independence and those who are against it are reconciling with each other. The only Razakar in our village was Baina Razakar. He was admitted to the Karshalika Razakar camp. he is mine

Upon finding out, he brought his companions and a few Razakars with him to seek advice on surrendering.

On December 12, after being defeated in the Battle of Tangail, a platoon of Pakistani soldiers crossed the Yamuna River and came to the Malipara Razakar camp. They took two Razakars with them to show them the way from the Malipara Razakar camp. They were fleeing along the Wapda Dam. On December 12, our group was at the house of Kala Chakraborty and Akhar Haji and others in a village called Syedpur. Around noon on December 13, some young men came and informed us that the Pakistani soldiers were fleeing. After receiving the news, we followed the Pakistani soldiers from the village of Kaijuri. At that time, our commander was Rabindra Nath Bagchi. The commander's orders were that the Pakistani soldiers were fleeing. If they did not harm our people, we would not attack them. The Pakistani soldiers were heading towards the Bera police station along the Wapda Dam. We were following them secretly from a safe distance. The Pakistani soldiers were hungry. They tried to pick radishes from the field of a farmer in Kaijuri and eat them. They were very angry. They saw us near Dhitpur village. They raised their weapons towards us. We jumped and took up positions on the western side of the Wapda dam. They also jumped and took up positions on the eastern side of the dam. They took up positions and started firing at us. Our commander Rabindra Nath Bagchi opened fire and ordered us to fire. Firing and counter-firing began. The Pakistani soldiers were professional, trained and equipped with modern weapons. It was very difficult to win a battle with them. They kept firing at us like rain. What a terrible war. Bullets were flying over my head. If we lose this war, they will kill us all brutally. Our group commander was Rabindra Nath Bagchi. He was operating the LMG. I was on his right. On my right was my Major Dada Samarendra Nath Sanyal. I was operating the 3-not-3 rifle. On the right side of my master were Md. Nazrul Islam of Kadai Badla village, Md. Shamsul Haque of Daulatpur village, Md. Bazlul Karim Dulal of Ratan Kumar Das Ghata bari of Pukur Par village and Md. Nazrul Islam of Mirkuchia Char of Chauhali police station and others. On the right side of our group was the group of SM Amir Hossain of Bera police station. Hearing the news of our battle, Md. Sirajul Islam of Kadai Badla village of Shahjadpur, Mr. Md. Abdul Hai's group and other groups of Ultabhav village. SM Amir Hossain's group of Bera police station, Belkuchi and other groups of Chauhali police station came and joined us. At one stage of the firing, freedom fighters of SM Amir Hossain's group of Bera on our side, Mr. Md. Abdul Khalek, a resident of Brisalika village and a 10th grade student of Bera Bibi High School, and Md. Amjad Hossain, a resident of Chechania village, were killed. Two bullets hit my helmet. On the right side of our group, two seriously wounded freedom fighters were writhing in pain. Some freedom fighters in their group were trying to ease their pain. The war cannot be stopped. If the war is stopped, the Pakistani soldiers will capture us. I and everyone else are firing. In the meantime, darkness has fallen. The Pakistani soldiers have almost stopped firing. When we saw them, we also stopped firing. We remained in position without eating all night. At night, two Razakars were firing one or two covering fires. In response to their fire, we were firing at 2:1 am. In the morning, our commander and others surrounded the two Razakars and made them surrender. Their weapons were taken from them. We learned from the two Razakars. Around 12 am

The democratic system of government was introduced from 1972. The government that existed during the Liberation War was not declared abolished. The Prime Minister was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In January 1972, my parents and my family returned to the country. Md. Hossain Ali of our village gave us all our houses. For a few days, the government provided rice, wheat and other assistance to the refugee families who had returned from the refugee camps for their rehabilitation. On 12 January 1972, the new government led by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took over the responsibility of running an independent Bangladesh as the Prime Minister under the parliamentary democratic government system. A few days later, he ordered us to deposit our weapons. On Monday, 24 January 1972, our group deposited weapons and ammunition at the weapons deposit camp set up at the house of Ibrahim Bihari in the Sirajganj subdivision (now district) headquarters. Later, National Militia camps were set up in various places across the country under the government's initiative. A National Militia Camp was set up on the west side of our Sirajganj Sub-division Office (where New Market is now located). The Sub-division Office advised all the freedom fighters who wanted to join the National Militia Camp to join it. Many of our fellow freedom fighters joined the National Militia Camp. I did not join the National Militia Camp. We two brothers moved to our house. After a few days, after receiving the news, I went to the Sub-division Office and collected the receipt for depositing weapons, and was given 110/- Taka as outstanding ration and pocket money, certificate No. 129158 signed by General Muhammad Ataul Gani Osmani, and a white blanket. When I got home, I took my 8th grade auto pass TC from my elder brother Shri Debendra Nath Sanyal M.Com M.Ed, the headmaster of my Ratan Kandi Lower Secondary School and got admitted to Shahjadpur Multi-Purpose High School in 9th grade (Science) and started studying. The journey of a freedom fighter who won the great liberation war began. After independence, I learned from my parents and others about the suffering of our family during the great liberation war. I am the main reason for the suffering of the family. I am responsible for everything that put the family at risk, caused financial and mental suffering. Yet, by the grace of the Almighty, who has peace in my heart, no one in our family lost their life.

Author: Freedom Fighter.

Heroic freedom fighter Debesh Chandra Sanyal, Father: Dwijendra Nath Sanyal, Mother: Nilima Sanyal, Village and Post Office: Ratan Kandi, Union: Habibullahnagar, Upazila: Shahjadpur, District: Sirajganj. Gazette No.-Be-Military Sirajganj-1679. Indian Training Based-1411, Upazila Based-158 Freedom Fighter Identification and Identity Card No.- 01880001411. F.F. No.-4742. Integrated List Watershed Management Information System, Digital Certificate

The democratic system of government was introduced from 1972. The government that existed during the Liberation War was not declared abolished. The Prime Minister was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In January 1972, my parents and my family returned to the country. Md. Hossain Ali of our village gave us all our houses. For a few days, the government provided rice, wheat and other assistance to the refugee families who had returned from the refugee camps for their rehabilitation. On 12 January 1972, the new government led by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took over the responsibility of running an independent Bangladesh as the Prime Minister under the parliamentary democratic government system. A few days later, he ordered us to deposit our weapons. On Monday, 24 January 1972, our group deposited weapons and ammunition at the weapons deposit camp set up at the house of Ibrahim Bihari in the Sirajganj subdivision (now district) headquarters. Later, National Militia camps were set up in various places across the country under the government's initiative. A National Militia Camp was set up on the west side of our Sirajganj Sub-division Office (where New Market is now located). The Sub-division Office advised all the freedom fighters who wanted to join the National Militia Camp to join it. Many of our fellow freedom fighters joined the National Militia Camp. I did not join the National Militia Camp. We two brothers moved to our house. After a few days, after receiving the news, I went to the Sub-division Office and collected the receipt for depositing weapons, and was given 110/- Taka as outstanding ration and pocket money, certificate No. 129158 signed by General Muhammad Ataul Gani Osmani, and a white blanket. When I got home, I took my 8th grade auto pass TC from my elder brother Shri Debendra Nath Sanyal M.Com M.Ed, the headmaster of my Ratan Kandi Lower Secondary School and got admitted to Shahjadpur Multi-Purpose High School in 9th grade (Science) and started studying. The journey of a freedom fighter who won the great liberation war began. After independence, I learned from my parents and others about the suffering of our family during the great liberation war. I am the main reason for the suffering of the family. I am responsible for everything that put the family at risk, caused financial and mental suffering. Yet, by the grace of the Almighty, who has peace in my heart, no one in our family lost their life.

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Mobile: 0171374168-6

Email-debesh00007@gmail.com

Freedom fighter introduction

Brave freedom fighter Debesh Chandra Sanyal. He was born on November 26, 1954 in a respectable Brahmin family in Ratankandi village under Habibullah Nagar union of Shahjadpur upazila of Sirajganj district. His father was Dwijendra Nath Sanyal and mother was Neelima Rani Sanyal. He is the third child among 4 sons and 1 daughter of his parents. My freedom fighter identity, digital certificate and digital identity card No.-01880001411, upazila integrated list serial no.-158. N, I, D, No.-8819443799645. Gazette No.-1679. Red Freedom News No.-0312040006 He passed the S.S.C. examination from Shahjadpur Pilot High School in 1974 and I.Com examination from Jamirta College in 1976, securing first place in commerce in the greater Pabna district and receiving a scholarship. He passed B.Com from Shahjadpur College in 1979. He obtained his Kavya Tirtha degree in 1980. Under his editorship, the first monthly Dewal Patrika was published at Shahjadpur Government College in 1978. He took admission in M.Com (Marketing) at Dhaka University in 1980. He received an appointment letter as a junior clerk at Sonali Bank during his studies at Dhaka University.

He stopped his studies and joined Sonali Bank on 22-09-1980. He was elected as the Assistant Commander (Office) of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Shahjadpur Upazila Command in 2004. In 2009, he was appointed as the Commander of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Sonali Bank Limited, Sirajganj Region Institutional Unit Command. During the Great Liberation War, he went to India from home without anyone knowing, while he was a student of the 8th grade of Ratankandi Adarsh Lower Secondary School, and as a member of a group with weapons and ammunition, he came inside the country and fought guerrilla and frontal battles against the Pakistani occupying forces and their local allies Razakars, Al Badr and Al Shams in various places. His Indian training freedom fighter number is 4742. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs' freedom fighter identification number is 01880001411. During the Liberation War training, he was trained by Indian Sikh instructor D.S. Villan had described him as a Samsaptak (a person who takes part in religious wars). His participation in the liberation war

Due to the adoption of the ultimatum of the anti-independence forces, the entire family was forced to leave their homes and everything, risk their lives and leave the country and take refuge in a refugee camp in India.

He came inside the country as a member of a guerrilla group and bravely participated in various fronts and guerrilla wars. When the country became independent, he deposited the weapons and ammunition of the Liberation War on Monday, January 24, 1972, on the instructions of the government and started his studies. Along with his studies, he established a mobile public library of Liberation War books and has been working to implement the spirit of the Liberation War in other ways. He is a self-respecting, energetic person. He is a religious person and a theologian. He has served in Sonali Bank for 38 years and 4 days. He retired on 25-09-18 while serving as Senior Principal Officer. He is currently the President of Bangladesh National Hindu Samaj Sanskar Samity, Shahjadpur Upazila Branch and is working for the welfare of the society in other ways. He writes on religion and the Liberation War. He has served as a manager in 5 branches for 10 years, 9 months and 3 days in his service life. He is married. He is the father of two daughters and one son.